

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application. Please cancel claim 22, without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 5, 19-21, 23-25, 27, 34, 42, 47, 59, and 61, and add new claims 69-96, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:
 - a proximal handle;
 - an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therebetween, the proximal end being coupled to the proximal handle, the elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through tortuous anatomy of a patient's body;
 - ~~an~~ a tissue cutting end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, actuation of the proximal handle causing the end effector to ~~perform a medical procedure~~ sever tissue; and
 - a distal member configured to open and substantially close the distal end of the lumen, the distal member defining a flow path such that, when the distal member substantially closes the distal end of the lumen, the flow path enables a flow communication between the lumen and an outside of the elongated member.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flow path defined by the distal member has a cross-sectional flow area less than a cross-sectional flow area of the lumen.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the handle includes a port in fluid communication with the lumen.
4. (Original) The device of claim 3, further comprising a fluid supplying member for supplying fluid to the port.
5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, ~~whether~~ wherein the port includes an interlocking member configured to engage with the fluid supplying member.
6. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the fluid supplying member includes a syringe.
7. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the handle defines a fluid chamber sealed from a portion of the handle and for providing a passage of fluid from the port to the lumen.
8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the end effector includes a snare loop.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the distal member includes a sealing member to seal the lumen.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the distal member has a frusto-conical shape for substantially closing the lumen.
12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the distal member includes a base portion and a head portion, the base portion having an outer diameter substantially the same as an inner diameter of the lumen, the head portion having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the lumen.
13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the distal member includes a plate member having an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of the lumen.
14. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flow path of the distal member has a varying cross-sectional flow area along the flow path.
15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the flow path has a cross-sectional flow area smaller than that of at least one of an inlet and an outlet of the flow path.
16. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the distal member connects to the end effector.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the distal member connects to the end effector at a distal end of the end effector.
18. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the distal member is movable relative to the lumen and is configured to substantially close the lumen when the end effector retracts proximally into the lumen and to open the lumen when the end effector extends distally out of the lumen.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 16,~~ A medical device comprising:
a proximal handle;
an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen
therebetween, the proximal end being coupled to the proximal handle, the
elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through tortuous
anatomy of a patient's body;
an end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, actuation of
the proximal handle causing the end effector to perform a medical
procedure; and
a distal member configured to open and substantially close the distal end of the
lumen, the distal member defining a flow path such that, when the distal
member substantially closes the distal end of the lumen, the flow path
enables a flow communication between the lumen and an outside of the
elongated member.

wherein the distal member fixedly connects to the end effector at a proximal end of the end effector.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 19, wherein the distal member includes a main body connected to the proximal end of the end effector and an annular flange extending from an outer surface of the main body, wherein the annular flange has an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of the ~~tubular~~ elongated member.
21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~19~~ 20, wherein the flow path is formed in the annular flange.
22. (Cancelled).
23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~22~~ 1, wherein the distal member includes:
a main body fixedly connected to a proximal end of the end effector; and
an annular body fixed to the distal end of the elongated member.
24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 23, wherein the ~~distal member~~ annular body includes a first portion extending internally from an inner surface of the annular body.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 24, ~~further comprising a second portion coupled to the end effector,~~ wherein the main body and the first portion and ~~second portions~~ are configured to contact each other to substantially close the lumen of the elongated member.
26. (Original) The device of claim 23, wherein the flow path has an inlet opening in a direction transverse to an axis of the annular body and an outlet opening in a direction substantially parallel to the axis of the annular body.
27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the ~~distal member~~ annular body has a stepped portion for securing the ~~distal member~~ annular body to the elongated member.
28. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the handle includes a stationary part and a movable part movable relative to the stationary part.
29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein movement of the movable part relative to the stationary part causes the distal member to sealingly engage the distal end of the lumen so that the lumen is in fluid communication with the outside of the elongated member via the flow path of the distal member.
30. (Original) The device of claim 29, further comprising a control member having a proximal end coupled to the movable part and a distal end coupled to the end

effector so that actuation of the movable part relative to the stationary part enables movement of the end effector for performing the medical procedure.

31. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the handle includes an electrical connector for receiving cautery current from a power supply source.
32. (Original) The device of claim 31, wherein the electrical connector is electrically connected to the end effector.
33. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the distal member defines a plurality of flow paths.
34. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:
 - an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therethrough, the elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through a tortuous anatomy of a patient's body;
 - ~~an~~ a tissue cutting end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, said tissue cutting end effector configured to sever tissue; and
 - a nozzle member configured to substantially seal the distal end of the lumen, the nozzle member defining a flow path in fluid communication between the lumen and an outside of the elongated member when the distal end of the lumen is sealed with the nozzle member.

35. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein the flow path has a flow area that is smaller than a flow area of the lumen.
36. (Original) The device of claim 34, further comprising a handle proximate the distal end of the elongated member and including a port.
37. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein the nozzle member is configured to selectively seal the distal end of the lumen.
38. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein the end effector includes a snare loop.
39. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein the nozzle member connects to the end effector.
40. (Original) The device of claim 39, wherein the nozzle member connects to the end effector at a distal end of the end effector.
41. (Original) The device of claim 39, wherein the nozzle member connects to the end effector at a proximal end of the end effector.
42. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 34, wherein the nozzle member is comprises a first member fixedly connected to a proximal end of the end effector and a second member fixedly connected to a distal end of the elongated member,

wherein the first and second members are configured to contact one another so as to substantially seal the distal end of the lumen.

43. (Original) The device of claim 34, further comprising a handle proximate the proximal end of the elongated member, the handle configured to control movement of the end effector and the nozzle member relative to the elongated member.
44. (Original) The device of claim 43, further comprising a control member extending between the handle and at least one of the end effector and the nozzle member.
45. (Original) The device of claim 43, wherein the handle includes a connector for receiving cautery current from a power supply source, the connector electrically connected to the end effector.
46. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein the nozzle member defines a plurality of flow paths.
47. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a medical procedure, the method comprising:

 inserting a medical device into a tissue tract of a patient, the medical device comprising a lumen and a nozzle member configured to substantially seal a distal end of the lumen, the nozzle member defining a flow path in fluid

communication between the lumen and an outside of the lumen when the distal end of the lumen is sealed with the nozzle member, the medical device further comprising a tissue cutting end effector coupled to the nozzle member;

closing the distal end of the lumen with the ~~distal~~ nozzle member, spraying fluid through the flow path of the nozzle member and onto tissue of the tissue tract to enhance visualization of tissue of the tissue tract; and actuating an the tissue cutting end effector of the medical device to ~~perform the medical procedure~~ sever the tissue of the tissue tract.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, further comprising inserting an endoscope for viewing the tissue tract.
49. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the medical procedure is a colonoscopic polypectomy procedure.
50. (Original) The method of claim 47, further comprising supplying fluid to the medical device.
51. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein spraying fluid includes spraying a chromoscopic dye agent.

52. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein spraying fluid includes spraying a radiographic contrast agent.
53. (Original) The method of claim 47, further comprising supplying cautery current to the end effector.
54. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the end effector includes a snare loop.
55. (Cancelled).
56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the nozzle member connects to the end effector.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the nozzle member is fixedly connected to a distal end of the lumen.
58. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the medical procedure includes removing tissue from the tissue tract.
59. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a medical procedure, the method comprising:
inserting a medical device into a patient, the medical device comprising:

an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therethrough, the distal end extending into the patient;
an a tissue cutting end effector proximate a the distal end of the elongated member; and
a distal member coupled to the tissue cutting end effector and configured to substantially seal the distal end of the lumen, the distal member defining a flow path in fluid communication between the lumen and an outside of the elongated member when the lumen is sealed with the distal member;
injecting fluid through the distal member of the medical device; and
actuating the tissue cutting end effector to ~~perform the medical procedure~~ sever tissue of a tissue tract.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising injecting fluid through the lumen of the medical device when the lumen is not sealed with the distal member.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein:

inserting the medical device includes inserting the medical device into the [[a]] tissue tract of a patient;
injecting fluid includes injecting a contrast agent for enhancing visualization of tissue in the tissue tract; and
actuating the end effector includes removing tissue from the tissue tract.

62. (Original) The method of claim 59, further comprising inserting an endoscope for viewing the tissue tract.
63. (Original) The method of claim 59, further comprising supplying fluid to the lumen of the medical device.
64. (Original) The method of claim 59, further comprising supplying cautery current to the end effector.
65. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the end effector includes a snare loop.
66. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the flow path of the distal member has a flow area that is smaller than a flow area of the lumen.
67. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the distal member connects to the end effector.
68. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the distal member is fixedly connected to the distal end of the elongated member.
69. (New) A medical device comprising:
a proximal handle;

an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen

therebetween, the proximal end being coupled to the proximal handle, the elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through tortuous anatomy of a patient's body;

an end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, actuation of the proximal handle causing the end effector to perform a medical procedure; and

a distal member configured to open and substantially close the distal end of the lumen, the distal member defining a flow path such that, when the distal member substantially closes the distal end of the lumen, the flow path enables a flow communication between the lumen and an outside of the elongated member,

wherein at least a portion of the flow path has a cross-sectional flow area smaller than both a cross-sectional flow area of an inlet of the flow path and a cross-sectional flow area of an outlet of the flow path.

70. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the handle includes a port in fluid communication with the lumen.

71. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the end effector comprises a tissue cutting end effector.

72. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member includes a base portion and a head portion, the base portion having an outer diameter substantially the same as an inner diameter of the lumen, the head portion having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the lumen.
73. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member includes a plate member having an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of the lumen.
74. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member connects to the end effector at a distal end of the end effector.
75. (New) The device of claim 74, wherein the distal member is movable relative to the lumen and is configured to substantially close the lumen when the end effector retracts proximally into the lumen and to open the lumen when the end effector extends distally out of the lumen.
76. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member connects to the end effector at a proximal end of the end effector.
77. (New) The device of claim 76, wherein the distal member includes a main body connected to the proximal end of the end effector and an annular flange extending

from an outer surface of the main body, wherein the annular flange has an outer diameter substantially the same as the inner diameter of the elongated member.

78. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member includes a main body connected to a proximal end of the end effector and an annular body fixed to the distal end of the elongated member.
79. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the annular body includes a first portion extending internally from an inner surface of the annular body and being configured to contact a portion of the main body to substantially close the lumen of the elongated member.
80. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the flow path has an inlet opening in a direction transverse to an axis of the annular body and an outlet opening in a direction substantially parallel to the axis of the annular body.
81. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the handle includes an electrical connector for receiving cautery current from a power supply source.
82. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the distal member defines a plurality of flow paths.

83. (New) A medical device comprising:

a proximal handle;

an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen

therebetween, the proximal end being coupled to the proximal handle, the

elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through tortuous

anatomy of a patient's body;

an end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, actuation of

the proximal handle causing the end effector to perform a medical

procedure; and

a distal member configured to open and substantially close the distal end of the

lumen and defining a flow path, the distal member comprising:

a main body connected to a proximal end of the effector; and

an annular body fixed to the distal end of the elongated member,

wherein the main body and the annular body are configured to contact each

other to substantially close the distal end of the lumen, and

wherein, when the distal member substantially closes the distal end of the

lumen, the flow path enables a flow communication between the lumen and

an outside of the elongated member.

84. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the annular body includes a first portion

extending internally from an inner surface of the annular body.

85. (New) The device of claim 84, wherein the main body and the first portion are configured to contact each other to substantially close the lumen of the elongated member.
86. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the flow path has an inlet opening in a direction transverse to an axis of the annular body and an outlet opening in a direction substantially parallel to the axis of the annular body.
87. (New) A medical device comprising:
- a proximal handle;
 - an elongated member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therebetween, the proximal end being coupled to the proximal handle, the elongated member being sufficiently flexible to traverse through tortuous anatomy of a patient's body;
 - an end effector proximate the distal end of the elongated member, actuation of the proximal handle causing the end effector to perform a medical procedure; and
 - a distal member configured to open and substantially close the distal end of the lumen, the distal member defining a flow path such that, when the distal member substantially closes the distal end of the lumen, the flow path enables a flow communication between the lumen and an outside of the elongated member,

wherein the flow path comprises an inlet and a plurality of outlets connecting to the inlet.

88. (New) The device of claim 87, wherein the end effector comprises a tissue cutting end effector.
89. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein at least a portion of the flow path in the nozzle member has a cross-sectional flow area smaller than both a cross-sectional flow area of an inlet of the flow path and a cross-sectional flow area of an outlet of the flow path.
90. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the nozzle member is fixedly connected to a proximal end of the lumen.
91. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the nozzle member includes a main body connected to a proximal end of the end effector and an annular body fixed to the distal end of the lumen.
92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the annular body includes a first portion extending internally from an inner surface of the annular body and being configured to contact a portion of the main body to substantially close the lumen of the elongated member.

93. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least a portion of the flow path has a cross-sectional flow area smaller than both a cross-sectional flow area of an inlet of the flow path and a cross-sectional flow area of an outlet of the flow path.
94. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the distal member is fixedly connected to a proximal end of the lumen.
95. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the distal member includes a main body connected to a proximal end of the end effector and an annular body fixed to the distal end of the elongated member.
96. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein the annular body includes a first portion extending internally from an inner surface of the annular body and being configured to contact a portion of the main body to substantially close the lumen of the elongated member.